

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PHNOM 06124 01 OF 02 010604Z

12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-20 DRC-01 IO-14 DPW-01

OMB-01 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

AGR-20 SWF-02 /179 W

----- 122789

P R 301215Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5955

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

CINCPAC

CINCPACFLT

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PHNOM 06124 01 OF 02 010604Z

CINCUSARPAC

DIA WASHDC
CGFMFPAC
CGUSARSUPTHAI
CNO
COMNAVINTCOM
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMUSMACTHAI
7/13 AF
7TH PSYOPS
COMUSSAG
III MAF
CINCPACAF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 6124

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, MOPS, ECON, CB
SUBJ: KHMER REPORT -- APRIL 30, 1974

GENERAL

1. MILITARY ACTIVITY THIS WEEK FOCUSED ON THE COASTAL TOWN OF KAMPOT, WHERE FANK MADE SLIGHT PROGRESS IN OPERATIONS TO REOPEN A RIVER CORRIDOR, ON THE BASSAC SOUTH OF PHNOM PENH, WHERE THE ENEMY PUSHED INTO RECOILLESS RIFLE RANGE OF THE INDUSTRIAL SUBURB OF TAKHMAU, AND ON THE MEKONG THIRTY KILOMETERS SOUTH OF THE CAPITAL, WHERE THE ENEMY CUT ROUTE 1. IN PREPARATION FOR ADDITIONAL ENEMY INITIATIVES IN THE COUNTRYSIDE, FANK EVACUATED THE TOWN OF SALA LEK PRAM IN ORDER TO CONSOLIDATE ITS TROOPS ON RTE 5 AND CONTINUED TO REINFORCE THE THREATENED PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF PREY VENG. ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT THE GKR MOVED TO EASE THE INFLATIONARY SPIRAL BY APPROVING A COMPREHENSIVE SERIES OF STEPS, INCLUDING A SLIGHT DEVALUATION. THE GRUNK/FUNK SPOTLIGHT REMAINED ON KHIEU SAMPHAN AS HE MOVED FROM ALBANIA TO YUGOSLAVIA, CHANGING THE CONTENT AND DECIBEL LEVEL OF HIS COMMUNIQUE TO ACCORD WITH THE POLITICAL POSTURE OF HIS HOSTS.

POLITICAL (INTERNAL)

2. PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET NARROWLY ESCAPED INJURY APRIL 26
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PHNOM 06124 01 OF 02 010604Z

WHEN AN M-79 ROUND DETONATED IN THE STREET 30 METERS BEHIND HIS CAR KILLING 10 AND INJURING 26. THE GENDARMARIE CONSIDER THE INCIDENT A POSSIBLE TERRORIST ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AGAINST THE PM, BUT ARE ALSO INVESTIGATING OTHER HYPOTHESES. THE PM WAS LEAVING A WEDDING BANQUET WHEN THE GRENADE EXPLODED, KILLING AND WOUNDING OTHER GUESTS AND PASSERS-BY ALIKE. RADIO FUNK CLAIMED THEIR GUERRILLAS HAND-GRENADED LONG BORET AS HE WAS ENGAGED IN A "DANCEHALL DEBAUCH." THEY CLAIMED 50 CASUALTIES AMONG THE PM'S HENCH-

MEN BUT ADMITTED THAT LONG BORET ESCAPED "THIS TIME."

3. FANK C-IN-C SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ PUBLICLY TOOK CHARGE OF THE NATIONAL CONSCRIPTION EFFORT IN AN APRIL 27 MEETING WITH JOINT CONSCRIPTION COMMITTEE STAFFERS. ACCORDING TO THE SEMI-OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT NEWS AGENCY AKP, SOSTHENE PROMISED TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE MATERIEL FOR COMMITTEE OPERATIONS AND TO FIRE OFFICIALS FAILING TO CARRY OUT THEIR CONSCRIPTION DUTIES.

4. PRESIDENT LON NOL TRAVELED TO PURSAT PROVINCE IN AGRICULTURALLY RICH MILITARY REGION III APRIL 29 TO WELCOME SOME 1,200 RALLIERS AND THEIR FAMILIES BACK INTO THE FOLD. THE RALLIERS WILL JOIN FANK UNITS AFTER TRAINING.

5. CHENG HENG, FORMER CHIEF OF STATE AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE DEFUNCT HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL, LEFT PHNOM PENH APRIL 26 FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT IN PARIS. HE TOLD US HE HAS DESIGNATED HEALTH MINISTER SOK HEANG SUN AS LEADER OF THE "NEUTRALIST" PARTICIPANTS IN THE GOVERNMENT AND WILL TRY TO KEEP HIS SMALL POLITICAL FOLLOWING INTACT DURING HIS PROJECTED TWO-MONTH ABSENCE. CHENG HENG ADDED THAT HE TOLD MARSHAL LON NOL HE WILL NOT PUBLICLY ATTACK GKR LEADERSHIP WHILE IN FRANCE.

POLITICAL (EXTERNAL)

6. THE GKR IS CONTINUING, ALBEIT SOMEWHAT UNSURELY, EFFORTS TO EXPAND ITS INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS BEFORE THE 29TH UN GA. FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER KOUN WICK IS PRESENTLY VISITING SEVERAL AFRICAN STATES, AND FOREIGN MINISTER KEUKY LIM IS IN NEW YORK WORKING OUT ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUBSEQUENT VISITS TO AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST.

7. THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE FOR THE UNGA SPECIAL SESSION HAS REFERRED THE QUESTION OF THE GKR SEAT TO THE PLENARY SESSION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 PHNOM 06124 01 OF 02 010604Z

WHICH IS EXPECTED TO TAKE IT UP APRIL 30. IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT THE PLENARY WILL POSE FURTHER PROBLEMS FOR THE GKR SINCE THE PRC ANNOUNCED IT WILL NOT MAKE AN ISSUE OF KHMER CREDENTIALS UNTIL THE 29TH UNGA.

8. PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUMA, ASKED BY THE PRESS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF THE NEW LAO GOVERNMENT'S RECOGNIZING GRUNK AND THE PRG, RESPONDED "WE HAVE NOT GONE THAT FAR". HE WENT ON TO EXPLAIN "WE DO NOT RECOGNIZE POLITICAL PARTIES; WE WILL RECOGNIZE ONLY THOSE GOVERNMENTS LOCATED IN THE CAPITALS OF THEIR COUNTRIES".

GRUNK/FUNK

10. KHIEU SAMPHAN AND HIS GRUNK/FUNK IN-COUNTRY DELEGATION COMPLETED VISITS THIS WEEK TO ALBANIA AND YUGOSLAVIA WHERE THEY RE-

PEATED THEIR NOW FAMILIAR THEME THAT ONLY THE DEPARTURE OF AMERICAN
IMPERIALISTS CAN BRING PEACE IN CAMBODIA, AND SIGNED JOINT
COMMUNIQUE TAILORED TO ACCOMMODATE THE FOREIGN POLICY VIEWS OF
THEIR HOSTS ON ISSUES OF LITTLE IMMEDIATE CONCERN TO CAMBODIA.
THE JOINT DECLARATION ISSUED IN TIRANA PRAISED MAO, TOOK A THINLY
VEILED SWIPE AT THE USSR AND FULMINATED AGAINST THE U.S. THE
BELGRADE DOCUMENT IN CONTRAST WAS QUITE BLAND, DENOUNCING " INTER-
NATIONAL IMPERIALISM" AND "OUTSIDE MEDDLING" IN CAMBODIA WITHOUT
MENTIONING NAMES. ENVER HOXA IN ALBANIA AND TITO IN YUGOSLAVIA
MET WITH THE DELEGATION, BUT THE HOSTING OF EVENTS FOR THE
KHMER WAS LEFT IN BOTH COUNTRIES TO LESSER GOVERNMENTAL FIGURES.
ON APRIL 29 THE DELEGATION MOVED ON TO RUMANIA.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PHNOM 06124 02 OF 02 301424Z

46

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-14 DPW-01 AID-20 OMB-01

CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 AGR-20

SWF-02 DRC-01 /179 W

----- 112990

P R 301215Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5956

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL UDORN
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USMISSION USUN
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
CINCPAC
CINCPACFLT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PHNOM 06124 02 OF 02 301424Z

CINCUSARPAC
DIA WASHDC
CGFMFPAC
CGUSARSUPTHAI
CNO
COMNAVINTCOM
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMUSMACTHAI
7/13 AF
7TH PSYOPS
COMUSSAG
III MAF
CINCPACAF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 6124

11. TAKING TIME OFF FROM HIS DIPLOMATIC DUTIES, KHIEU SAMPHAN SENT OFF A MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CPNLAF FOR ITS SUCCESS AT KOMPONG LUONG. HE CALLED THE VICTORIES AT KOMPONG LUONG AND OUDONG A "TURNING POINT OF THE SECOND PHASE OF OUR STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE."

ECONOMIC

12. ON APRIL 30 THE GKR ANNOUNCED A PACKAGE OF ECONOMIC MEASURES DESIGNED TO RESTRAIN INFLATION UNDER THE CURRENT WARTIME CONDITIONS OF SUPPLY INTERDICTION. KEY MEASURES IN THE PACKAGE WERE: THE ADOPTION OF SYSTEMATIC PROCEDURES FOR A MONTHLY REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL BUDGET AIMED AT REDUCING BUDGET EXPENDITURES AND INCREASING RECEIPTS; A PROHIBITION OF LUXURY IMPORTS FINANCED UNDER THE EXCHANGE SUPPORT FUND; A TAX ON EXCESS PROFITS; THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SELECT COMMITTEES TO STIMULATE DOMESTIC PRODUCTION AND TO COORDINATE THE TRADING OF ESSENTIAL CONSUMPTION COMMODITIES FROM AREAS OF SURPLUS (OR THE IMPORT SECTOR) TO AREAS IN DEFICIT; THE CREATION OF A CONSORTIUM OF COMMERCIAL BANKS WITH GOVERN-

MENT PARTICIPATION TO FINANCE SMALL ENTERPRISES AND PRODUCTION COOPERATIVES; AND DEVALUATION OF THE RIEL FROM THE PRESENT RATE OF 377 TO A SLIGHTLY MORE REALISTIC ONE OF 420 RIELS PER U.S. DOLLAR. THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO COMMITTED ITSELF TO PERIODIC ADJUSTMENTS IN THE OFFICIAL EXCHANGE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PHNOM 06124 02 OF 02 301424Z

RATE WHICH REMAINS FAR BELOW THE BLACK MARKET RATE. IN ADDITION, THE GOVERNMENT HAS INDICATED ITS INTENTION TO RAISE THE PRICES OF POL PRODUCTS IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO EFFECT MORE EFFICIENT ALLOCATION OF THESE GOODS. COMMENT: WHILE THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ECONOMIC PACKAGE IS A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, MUCH WILL DEPEND ON GKR FOLLOW-THROUGH ACTION PARTICULARLY IN INCREASING DOMESTIC PRODUCTION AND SETTING UP MORE EFFECTIVE MEANS OF INTERIOR TRANSPORTATION.

13. THE PRICES OF MANY RETAIL GOODS IN PHNOM PENH REMAINED UNCHANGED DURING THE PAST WEEK, WHILE OTHERS SHOWED SIGNIFICANT INCREASES AND SOME DECLINED. AMONG THE PRODUCTS WHICH ROSE IN PRICE WERE VEGETABLES SUCH AS TOMATOES (100 0/0), GREE BEANS (50 0/0), SWEET PEPPERS (33 0/0), STRING BEANS AND CAULIFLOWER (25 0/0). DECLINES IN PRICE WERE RECORDED FOR FRESH WATER FISH (17 0/0), PAPAYAS (25 0/0), LOCAL CARROTS (21 0/0) AND GREEN BANANAS (18 0/0). RICE PRICES REMAINED UNCHANGED WHILE CHARCOAL WENT UP 12 0/0. COMMENTS: EARLY RAINS, WHICH BROUGHT SOME LOCAL PRODUCE ON THE MARKET AHEAD OF SCHEDULE, AND DECREASED DEMAND FOLLOWING THE KHMER NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY RESULTED IN THE DOWNWARD MOVEMENT OF CERTAIN PRICES. UPWARD PRICE PRESSURE RESULTING FROM THE INTERDICTION OF KEY ROAD AND WATER LINES OF SUPPLY REMAINS DOMINANT, OF COURSE, AND THE GKR IS PLANNING, WITH U.S. ASSISTANCE, TO AUGMENT ITS TRANSPORT CAPACITY IN ORDER TO GET MORE SUPPLIES TO PHNOM PENH AND OTHER DEFICIT AREAS.

14. RICE STOCKS IN PHNOM PENH ON APRIL 28 WERE 42,326 METRIC TONS OR A 65-DAY SUPPLY AT THE OFFICIAL DISTRIBUTION RATE OF 650 M/T DAILY. AN ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL 10,000 M/T ARE EXPECTED TO ARRIVE BY MAY 7. THE AVERAGE DAILY DISTRIBUTION RATE WAS 664.9 M/T OVER THE PAST SEVEN DAYS AND 651.5 M/T FROM APRIL 21-28.

MILITARY

15. FANK SUCCESSFULLY EVACUATED THE ENTIRE 15,000 STRONG CIVILIAN POPULATION AND 2,000 MAN GARRISON OF SALA LEK PRAM 8KMNOUTH TO LONGVEK. THE MOVE WAS DESIGNED TO CONSOLIDATE FANK'S DEFENSIVE EFFORT NORTH OF OUDONG IN

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 PHNOM 06124 02 OF 02 301424Z

THE WAKE OF THE OUDONG AND KOMPONG LUONG DEFEATS. TO DCGERT THE ENEMY, UNITS OF THE 5TH BRIGADE AND THE 7TH DIVISION SIMULTANEOUSLY ATTACKED THE SOUTHERN-MOST ENEMY POSITIONS ON RTE 5 AND REOCCUPIED KRUOS, 20 KM NORTH OF PHNOM PENH.

16. UTONG THE BASSAC RIVER 7-8 KM SOUTH OF PHNOM PENH, KC TROOPS MAINTAINED HEAVY PRESSURE ON FANK TERRITORIALS AND ELEMENTS OF THE 2ND DIVISION. SEVERAL FANK POSITIONS RETREATED AS BOTH SIDES TOOK SUBSTANTIAL CASUALTIES. THE ENEMY'S ADVANCE PERMITTED IT TO SHELL THE CAPITAL'S SOUTHERN SUBURB OF TAKHMAU WITH 75MM RECOILLESS RIFLES CAUSING MODERATE CIVILIAN CASUALTIES.

17. IN THE SIXTH MILITARY REGION EAST OF THE MEKONG ENEMY RESISTANCE FORCED FANK TO ABANDON EFFORTS TO MOVE TWO INFANTRY BATTALIONS AND AN ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIER SQUADRON BY ROAD FROM BANAM TO THE THREATENED PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF PREY VENG. SOME 1425 TROOPS FROM THE 4TH AND 24TH BRIGADES HAVE BEEN AIRLIFTED INTO PREY VENG INSTEAD. THE ABORTIVE OPERATION APPEARS TO HAVE KEPT KC FORCES OFF BALANCE, HOWEVER, AND TO HAVE DELAYED THEIR ATTACK ON PREY VENG.

18. FANK AGAIN FAILED TO REOPEN THE VITAL SHORT RIVERINE RESUPPLY ROUTE FROM THE GULF OF THAILAND INTO THE COASTAL CITY OF KAMPOT. GOVERNMENT TROOPS EXPANDED THE PERIMETER SLIGHTLY IN FIGHTING NORTH AND SOUTHWEST OF THE PROVINCE CAPITAL AND INFLICTED MODERATE TO HEAVY CASUALTIES ON STUBBORN ENEMY FORCES.

19. AT TAKEO FANK FORCES PUSHED OUT THEIR PERIMETER TO THE NORTH WHILE THE ENEMY INCREASED ACTIVITIES ON THE WESTERN FRONT IN AN ATTEMPT TO SLOW DOWN ALMOST CO-EQUAL FANK CLEARING OPERATIONS.

20. THE OPERATION FROM KG. SPEU TO RETAKE RECENTLY LOST GROUND IN THE PHNOM SAMBOUR AREA ALONG RTE 4 WAS ABANDONED AFTER MAKING LITTLE OR NO PROGRESS. THE ENEMY CUT RTE 1 APRIL 27 OCCUPYING A 3 KM STRETCH ABOUTS 30 KM FROM PHNOM PENH. FANK'S 51ST BRIGADE SUPPORTED BY M-113'S INFLICTED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 PHNOM 06124 02 OF 02 301424Z

MODERATE CASUALTIES AND HAD MADE GOOD PROGRESS TOWARD ELIMINATING THIS INTERDICTION BY WEEK'S END. A MEKONG CONVOY FROM SVN ARRIVED SAFELY IN PHNOM PENH APRIL 29 HAVING

RECEIVED LITTLE DAMAGE FROM TWO LIGHT ATTACKS
BY FIRE EN ROUTE.
DEAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INFILTRATION, ASSASSINATION, MILITARY TRAINING, RECOGNITION, GROUND COMBAT OPERATIONS, COMMUNISTS, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PHNOM06124
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740103-1027
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974042/aaaaabof.tel
Line Count: 388
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 8
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <24-Sep-2002 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KHMER REPORT -- APRIL 30, 1974 GENERAL
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, MOPS, ECON, CB, GRUNK, (LONG BORET)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005